

**Mansfield Commission on Aging Minutes**  
**9:30 AM – Senior Center**  
**Monday, March 8, 2010**

**PRESENT:** K. Grunwald (staff), T. Quinn (Chair), S. Gordon, J. Scottron, Jane Blanshard (guest), M. Thatcher, E. Poirier, M. Gerling (staff), T. Rogers, C. Pellegrine, A. Holinko, K. Doeg, J. Quarto

**REGRETS:** W. Bigl, C. Phillips,

- I. **Call to Order:** Chair T. Quinn called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.
- II. **Appointment of Recording Secretary:** K. Grunwald agreed to take minutes for the meeting.
- III. **Acceptance of Minutes:** The minutes of the **February 8** meeting were accepted as written.
- IV. **Correspondence** – Chair and Staff: none.
- V. **New Business**
  - A. Waldo Klein- State Commission on Aging: Mr. Klein was unable to attend, but will be invited to a future meeting.
  - B. Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities: J. Blanshard, a member of that committee, reported on their accomplishments including increasing the fine for handicapped parking violations and advocating for an automatic door opener at TJ Maxx.
  - C. Non-profit Agency Funding Requests:
    - Pellegrine presented C. Phillips report on TVCCA's Meals on Wheels application. Her recommendation was that the application be funded for the full amount requested (\$3387.72). Recommendation was accepted unanimously.
    - A. Holinko reported on Community Companion's and Homemaker's request for \$4500. They have served 55 residents since July 1. She feels that it is important to support agencies like this as part of a network of services for seniors. Her recommendation is to fund this for the full amount requested. Approved unanimously.
    - M. Thatcher reported on the request from Dial-A-Ride. They received approximately \$71,000 in funding last year from the Town. They are asking for a modest increase due to rising fuel and insurance costs. She feels that this serves some of Mansfield's most vulnerable residents who can't drive; recommended funding the full request. Approved unanimously.

D. Long-Range Plan Review: T. Rogers reported that People's Bank has decided that they do not want to go through the Commission on the Triad program, as they prefer to deal directly with the Fire Chief and the Resident State Trooper. C. Pellegrine suggested that this program be included in the plan, once it goes before the Town Council. She would like to see support from People's Bank to update "At Your Fingertips." Concerns were raised about how to get this type of information out to all senior residents. J. Quarto suggested that this be incorporated in the annual town-wide mailing of Sparks. K. Doeg also suggested that this be established as a link from the web page. A. Holinko suggested that the availability of the booklet be publicized and sent out in response to specific requests. Motion made to update "At Your Fingertips." L. Bilokur, C. Pellegrine, T. Quinn, and A. Holinko volunteered to work on a draft plan with K. Grunwald to for how to update the Long-Range Plan. They will present to the Commission at the next meeting. In terms of volunteer transportation M. Gerling is working on this with the Association. A suggestion was mad to invite Sharry Goldman to the next Commission meeting to present on this work.

E. Follow-up on Matt Hart's suggestion to host a Community Forum: J. Quarto feels that it would be helpful to have a discussion around the needs of seniors in Town. C. Pellegrine and M. Thatcher would like more information about what is being proposed. M. Gerling reported that she was aware of a similar forum that was held in Dedham, MA, which did not go well. C. Pellegrine expressed concern that this could just be a forum for complaints; an opportunity to "air the dirty laundry." T. Rogers feels that talking to individual members at the Center is a better way of approaching this. A. Holinko supports the idea of reaching out to individual seniors to hear what their needs are. T. Quinn feels that this needs to be more structured, but other members feel that something is lost in the formality of a public forum. C. Pellegrine moved that the recommendation for a public forum be placed on hold as the Commission explores other options. L. Bilokur feels that there are problems at the Senior Center that need to be aired. J. Scottron feels that it would not be productive to focus on the past. Motion passed unanimously.

F. "Other": none.

#### VI. **Optional Reports** on Services/Needs of Town Aging Populations

##### A. Health Care Services

Wellness Center and Wellness Program – Kevin Grunwald announced that an offer has been made to someone for the Social Work position.

##### B. Social, Recreational and Educational

Senior Center – Marilyn Gerling distributed copies of her monthly report. She reported that she is working on developing a volunteer driver program.

Senior Center Assoc. –Tom Rogers reported that Town staff and the Association are planning for a reception for the finalists for the Coordinator's position.

C. Housing

Assisted Living Advisory Committee, Wrights Way, Juniper Hill, Jensen's Park, Glen Ridge, Other: no reports.

D. Related Town and Regional Organizations such as:

Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities, Senior Resources of Eastern CT: no reports.

**VII. Old Business**

A. Long Range Plan for 2007- 2010: discussed earlier.

B. Sub-Committee Report: New Senior Center: J. Quarto reported that they have not done anything on this since Candidate's Night.

C. Triad: discussed earlier.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 PM. Next meeting: **Monday, April 12, 2010** at 9:30 AM at the Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Grunwald